

Concerning Holy Communion:

1. **If you are a communicant member of an Orthodox parish**, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Saint Mark's. If possible, and this is preferred, announce your intention to receive Communion to Fr. Jonathan prior to the Liturgy, or at the Chalice.
2. **If you are not a member of the Orthodox Church**, please refrain from approaching the Chalice for Communion. Instead, you are welcome to receive some of the blessed bread (*antidoron*) from a small side table, and introduce yourself to Fr. Jonathan following the Liturgy.

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered for the Health of:

Archpr. Dimitri	Archpr. Stephen	Archpr. Elias	Mat. Marion	Sbdn. Joseph
Irene	Laurie	Barbara	Tanya	Nina
Nicole & Noelle	Eli	Joshua	Mark	Nick
Carolyn	Charles	Gregory	Ricardo	Nancy
Karen	Peter	Bill	Kay	Lydia
Mary	Mike	Patrick	Maksim	Richard
Kathy	Dolores	John	Jerry	Charlotte
Alexandra	Zina	Faith	Madison	Heather
Nicholas	George	David	Mason	Carol
Lana	Sherie	Moriah and n.b. daughter	Cassia and n.b. daughter	
Expecting mothers and unborn children: Arlie, Alexys, Tharika, Caitlin, Emma, & Belle				

Prayers of Holy Oblation are offered in Memory of:


Deanna ND

September Birthdays:

Will Bortins (9/3)	Jessie Insley (9/7)	Bryan P. Ewers (9/17)
Laurie Kohanik (9/20)	Emma Bortins (9/21)	Warren Caterson (9/23)
Larissa Ciampa (9/26)	George Cordero (9/27)	

TO SPONSOR COFFEE HOUR, please sign up on the calendar book on the glass case. **COFFEE HOUR.**

Memorial Bricks for the St. Mark Memorial Garden can be ordered at www.thatmybrick.com/stmarkorthodox. You can order a 4"x 8" or 8"x8" brick with or without an Orthodox Cross, the number of characters vary accordingly. If you have any questions about the ordering process, see Fr. Jonathan.

Financial Donations can now be made via **PayPal** by clicking the link on our parish webpage, or by scanning this QR code. 

You may also mail donations to: P.O. Box 1315, Bradenton, FL 34206.



St. Mark Orthodox Church

1517 57th Street E
Bradenton, FL 34208

"The Messenger"

V. Rev. Fr. Jonathan Cholcher
Rector

V. Rev. Fr. Stephen Plumlee
Attached

Sub-Deacon James Abraham

Parish Phone: (941)-749-7662
Parish Website: Bradentonorthodox.org
www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch
Parish E-mail: stmarkocarector@gmail.com
Fr. Jonathan's Cell: (941)-807-5393
Usual Weekly Office Hours:
Wed. 11 AM-1 PM & Fri. 9:00 AM to Noon

This week at St. Mark

7 Sunday	5:00 PM	Great Vespers w/Litia
8 Monday	8:15 AM	Matins (Nativity of the Theotokos)
	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
10 Wednesday	6:00 PM	Vespers/Scripture Reading
11 Thursday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
13 Saturday	3:00 PM	Intro to Orthodoxy
	5:00 PM	Vigil (Exaltation of the Cross)
14 Sunday	9:30 AM	Divine Liturgy (Exaltation of the Cross)
	11:15 AM	Sunday School classes

Sunday, September 7, 2025 Tone 4

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross; Martyr Sozon of Cilicia

St. Mark is a Parish of the OCA Diocese of the South under the leadership of Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Alexander. Our mission is to be a spiritual home to all who enter; to be a Christ-like community of Orthodox Christians; to be active in worship, fellowship, and witness, through participation in the Sacraments to come into close union with God.

Prokeimenon Tone 6 (Sunday Before)
O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)
V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

Galatians 6:11-18 (Epistle, Sunday Before)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

1 Corinthians 16:13-24 (Epistle)

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

John 3:13-17 (Gospel, Sunday Before)

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send

His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Matthew 21:33-42 (Gospel)

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?” They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel:

Troparion Tone 4 (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion Tone 4 (Forefeast)

Today from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David,
the handmaid of God Mary is being born for us.
Therefore all creation is renewed and rejoices.
Heaven and earth rejoice together.
Praise her, you families of nations,
for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out://
“The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life!”

Troparion Tone 4 (Saint Mark)

From your childhood the light of truth enlightened you, O Mark

And you loved the labor of Christ the Savior
Therefore you followed Peter with zeal
And served Paul well as a fellow laborer//
And you enlighten the world with your Holy Gospel.

Troparion Tone 4 (St. Sozon)

Thy holy martyr Sozón, O Lord,
through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our
God.

For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//
Through his intercession, save our souls!

Kontakion Tone 4 (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master,//
He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion Tone 2 (St. Mark)

You did receive the grace of the Spirit from on high
Destroying the snares of the orators
You did hunt all the nations O Apostle
And led them to your Master//
O glorious Mark the preacher of the Gospel of God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

Kontakion Tone 2 (St. Sozon)




Let us gather today and together sing to Sozón,
the true and divinely wise martyr,
an expert fighter for the faith,
the mystical seer of divine grace,
a generous provider of healing,//
who prays to Christ God for us all.

now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Kontakion Tone 3 (Forefeast)

Today the Virgin Theotokos Mary,
the bridal chamber of the Heavenly Bridegroom,
by the will of the God is born of a barren woman,
being prepared as the chariot of God the Word.//
She was foreordained for this, since she is the divine gate and the true
Mother of Life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Parish website is www.bradentonorthodox.org. See also www.facebook.com/St.MarkOrthodoxChurch.
- **A COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR SHEET** is located on the glass bookstore case in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring Coffee Hour in 2025. Speak with Cathy Johns for more information.
- **Immediately following each Divine Liturgy as we venerate the Cross, we pray the Post-Communion Prayers. Please maintain quiet until the prayers are completed.** 
- **Quarterly Charity (July-September): Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM)**, provides spiritual care, enabling people in prison to find hope and purpose in their lives. You can give by designated check or marked envelope.
- **Debt Reduction Thermometer** – on the back wall of the Narthex, tracking our progress in eliminating our building mortgage debt. Consider how God is leading you to contribute to reducing our debt! 
- **Brokerage Account at Fidelity** – Saint Mark Church has established a brokerage account at Fidelity services. Contact Michael Kulisz (Church Treasurer) or Bob Matzkevich (Parish Council Warden/President) for additional information, or with questions regarding the donation of securities. 
- Anyone interested in *becoming a Reader*, please see either Fr. Jonathan or Subdeacon James. A reading class will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 16, beginning at 6:00 PM.
- Any male over the age of 8 who would like to *become an Altar server*, please see either Fr. Jonathan or Subdeacon James.
- **MYRRHBEARERS NEWS:** 1) Cathy Johns is hosting a **Ladies Tea** at her home on **Sat., Sept. 20, at 10 AM**. Please RSVP as you will be receiving a personalized tea cup: 678-777-3098; Cathy's address is 3003 93rd Street East, Palmetto 34221 (Piney Point). 2) Sarah Hogan will be hosting a **"DiaperParty" for Arlie Button** on **Sat., Oct. 4, at 10 AM**. Please RSVP to Sarah at 941-527-5737; her address is 3391 Hilltop Cir., Bradenton 34211 (Star Farms). 3) There will be a **"Craft Fair / Bake Sale" meeting** on **Sunday, Oct. 5**, right after prayers. If you are interested in including your craft, baked good, or just being a helper please talk to Arlie Button or come to the meeting.
- **Sunday School classes for our children** WILL RESUME today following Liturgy: 1) 4-7 year-olds; 2) 8-12 year-olds; and 3) Teens.